



IFW

PTO/SB/21 (09-04)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

TRANSMITTAL FORM

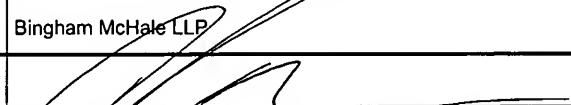
(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

		Application Number	10/772,193
		Filing Date	February 4, 2004
		First Named Inventor	Amber McCrocklin
		Art Unit	4673
		Examiner Name	Andrew D. Wright
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	18	Attorney Docket Number	13881-44763

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

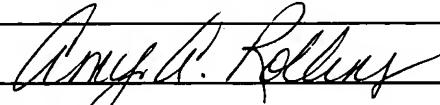
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
<input type="checkbox"/> After Final	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information
<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation	<input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter
<input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please Identify below):
<input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer	
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement	<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund	
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53		
Remarks		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name	Bingham McHale LLP		
Signature			
Printed name	C. John Brannon		
Date	November 15, 2004	Reg. No.	44,557

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below:

Signature			
Typed or printed name	Amy A. Rollins		Date November 15, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: the Patent Application of) Before the Examiner:
) Andrew D. Wright
Amber McCrocklin, et al.) Group Art Unit: 4673
)
Application No. 10/772,193) Attorney Docket No. 13881-44763
)
Filing Date: February 4, 2004) Date: November 15, 2004
)
APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR)
BOARDING ANIMALS INTO A BOAT)

RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the most recent Office Action, dated August 25, 2004, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows. It is believed that no new matter has been introduced.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3 at line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The present invention relates to a device for attachment to a boat for boarding animals thereinto. The device includes an elongated ramp member having a proximal end portion and a central body portion, a support member extending from the proximal end and engagedly abutting a first portion of the boat extending above-the-waterline, a strut extending from the central portion and abutting a second portion of the boat extending below-the waterline, and a gripping assembly connected to the support member for releasably engaging the boat.--